

Navy line is mighty fine and, as often happens, turned out for the best, and after graduation I was assigned to the USS Benner (DD807) home ported in Long Beach, California.

I met Bonnie Evelyn Armes, the mother of my three children, while living in Belmont Shores with four civilians, through Al Hively, one of my room mates, a life time friend, and best man at my wedding. After six months at Destroyer School in Newport, R.I. I was assigned to the USS Taylor (DD-486) home ported in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Bonnie and I were married in a Roman Catholic ceremony in Lomita, California where six of my USNA classmates acted as ushers. I was soon to be retrained in certain areas such as putting the toilet seat down and reserving the use of the "good paper" plates for the proper social functions which did not include lunch. Marcella Ann, our first born, was born at Trippler Army Hospital, Hawaii while I was deployed in the West Pacific. In May 1968, I reported to the Naval Postgraduate School, in Monterey, California where, two years later, I received a Master of Science in Physics. While in PG school, Elizabeth Jane was born in Carmel Hospital. In August 1970 I reported to the staff Cruiser-Destroyer Flotilla Six in Charleston, South Carolina. It was during this tour that I was again turned down for nuclear power program by Adm Rickover after a very stern lecture on my abilities to make effective use of my time and to recall the recite physics. Katherine Marie was born at Charleston Naval Hospital soon after I returned from deployment to the Mediterranean aboard the USS America (CVA-66). In September 1972, I reported to the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory, operated by the University of California for the Atomic Energy Commission and served as a nuclear weapons research associate. Our first house was purchased which caused Bonnie to enter a false sense of economy where she used tea bags twice as her contribution to mortgage affordability.

Having been ordered to the USS Enterprise (CVAN-65), I was subsequently transferred to Oak Knoll Naval Hospital to undergo a medical evaluation for narcolepsy. I spent eighteen months on medical hold at Treasure Island while the Navy reviewed my case for a medical discharge. The balance of my naval career was spent in Albuquerque, New Mexico serving as a Defense Nuclear Agency, R&D officer for weapon development. I retired from the navy, started a new career with Los Alamos Technical Associates, and underwent a divorce in 1983. I remarried in 1989 to Joanne E. Nugent (nee Sapp) which lasted less than two years. In 1994 I joined H&R Technical Associates in Richland, Washington.